

326
19

THE
Young Lady of Fortune,
OR HER LOVER
GAINED BY STRATAGEM,
A NOVEL,

IN TWO VOLUMES
By MRS. JUDITH ALEXANDER.

K

The father locks, bolts and bars the door,
Tho' what locks, bolts, or bars can keep in store?
A woman from her will and desires,
'Tis more than mortal man can attempt or requires,
Than as the soul doth rule this earthly mass,
And all the service of the body frame;
So love of soul doth love of body pass,
No less than perfect gold transcends the meanest brass.

VOL. I.

Printed for the Author by L. ALEXANDER, *Bishopsgate-Street*, and Sold by C. STALKER, No. 4, *Stationers-Court, Ludgate-Street*.

M. DCC. LXXXVI.

18

Young Lady of Fortune

OR HER LOVER

GAINED BY STRATAGEM

A NOVEL

IN TWO VOLUMES

BY MRS. JUDITH ALEXANDER



VOL. I.

Printed for the Author by L. ALEXANDER, Edinburgh.
And Sold by C. STANLEY, No. 4, St. Andrew's
Court, Ludgate Street.

M. DCC. LXXXII.

T H E

Young Lady of Fortune,

HER LOVER GAINED

STRATAGEM.

A NOVEL.

THAT no partiality may blind
the Perusers of this, I will lay
before my kind Readers without
any Preface the events which com-
pose my story. The years of my
childhood

childhood I will now pass over, till
I arrived at the age of sixteen ; I
was brought up under the care of
my Grandmother in the country,
she was a widow with a fortune of
ninety thousand pounds at her own
disposal ; I loved my Grandmother
most tenderly, and our fondness
encreased with our age ; there was
in fact nothing that could make us
angry with each other, we had an
elegant house, situated in a pleasant
country, with a fine prospect from
the Park, and a river ran through
the Garden. Our years was spent
in

in moral or rural amusements, in visiting our neighbours, or relieving such as were poor; all the most affecting scenes of my life than commenced, the circumstance of one evening tinged all my future ones.

One day Lady Algernon invited us to come to see her, where I found several of my friends and acquaintances; among whom was a strange Gentleman, Miss Algernon called his name Lovewell. The Company was perfect harmonious, and we were excessively agreeable

to

to each other, but night came on, and all our joys were hushed; my Grandmother took her leave of the Company, and we went home; but the unknown Gentleman ran so in my mind, that it made me quite melancholy; we went to supper, but I was such ill company, that my tender Grandmother seemed in the utmost anxiety for my health; she asked me a hundred times if I had not got cold, or if the music had not made my head ach; she prescribed twenty different remedies, and so much embarrassed me.

me with her kindness, that every moment seemed an age, till I got in my own apartment; but then alas! I was far from being at ease, the idea of my unknown conqueror ran in my head, which would not suffer me to take the least repose; neither the morning, nor the various objects which day presented, gave any relaxation to my disquiets; I went to breakfast, but relished nothing; and in fine, was in such an absence of mind, that I knew not what I did, and was incapable of any one rational word or action.

My

My woman reminding me it was my dressing hour, I adjourned to my toilet; but nothing she brought me to put on could please me, I threw one set of ribbands on the floor, another at her head, tore a third to pieces, made her alter the curls of my hair twenty times over; sent her to my drawers for one thing, which when she brought I threw aside and called for another, while I was venting my spleen in this manner on my poor maid, who had never seen me before in such a humour; one of the servants

YM

knocked

knocked softly at the door of the dressing room; and on opening it, delivered a Letter, which she said was just brought, and required an answer. Alas! I did not know the hand writing, I opened it with some surprise; but good heaven, how greatly was that surprise encreased, when I found from whom it came, and what were the contents, as copy per next.

To the Amiable Miss CONRAD.
 O! Heaven, who is the sole disposer of all human events, can alone determine, whether I ought
 Vol. I. B to

' to dart the era of my happiness,
 ' or misery. It is needless to tell
 ' you, the person who had the
 ' pleasure of seeing you last night,
 ' in very polite company at a place
 ' you much frequent, which to me
 ' has proved an unhappy moment.
 ' I took the liberty of speaking to
 ' you, as often as opportunity per-
 ' mitted, and became from that
 ' instant wholly devoted to you :
 ' those eyes which made so sudden
 ' a conquest of my heart, could not
 ' want penetration, to discover the
 ' effect they had upon me. Yes,

OJ

I Miss,

' Miss, I own myself your captive,
 ' but could not submit to be so,
 ' without knowing the name of
 ' my conqueror. This morning I
 ' was so fortunate, to learn your
 ' name, your place of abode, and
 ' that you are not married; but
 ' am ignorant whether pre-engaged
 ' or not. If the latter, I flatter
 ' myself that neither my family,
 ' fortune, nor character, are such
 ' as would make me despair; that
 ' the honorable proposals I have
 ' to make would be totally rejected;
 ' be so good therefore, I beseech
 ' you,

' you, as to indulge me with the
 ' knowledge, that if the blessing I
 ' am ambitious of be already dis-
 ' posed, I may for the future avoid
 ' all interviews, so dangerous to
 ' my peace; or if your heart is free
 ' to receive the soft impression of
 ' a faithful love, I may endeavour
 ' by all the services in my power,
 ' to be the happy man this confiden-
 ' tion. ^{is} Miss, will prove your
 ' generosity equal to your beauty,
 ' and I hope will not be thought
 ' too presuming in me to intreat,
 ' since if to gain you be among the
 ' things

‘things that are impossible ; pru-
 ‘dence requires my utmost efforts,
 ‘to check the hopeless passion, and
 ‘if happily for me it is otherwise,
 ‘I cannot too soon begin to testify
 ‘with how much ardor and sin-
 ‘cerity, I am the charming Miss
 ‘Conrade’s ardor.”

LOVEWELL.

What agitations this billet
 threw me into, at a declaration so
 unexpected, so un hoped for, so
 unthought of, I neither knew what
 I ought to judge of this affair, nor
 in what manner I should behave ;
 the

the reverse of my temper made me loath to write to a man, I had so little knowledge of, especially on such a subject: but there appeared so much justice and reason in his request, that after much debate within myself, resolved at last to comply; but how I should answer, was the greatest difficulty, which I here inclose a copy of.

Mr. Lovewell.

Sir,

‘ A declaration of love, from
 ‘ a person so entirely a stranger to
 ‘ me seems so very extraordinary,
 ‘ that

'that you cannot be surpris'd I
 'have so long detain'd your
 'messenger; on the uncertainty in
 'what manner I should receive it.
 'Were I in reality mistress of more
 'perfections than I can pretend to
 'be endued with, it would be re-
 'diculous and unpardonable vanity
 'in me to imagine, they would
 'have force to make in transient a
 'view as you had of me; an im-
 'pression of the nature you make
 'profession of, and I should think
 'your letter dictated by mere cap-
 'rice or curiosity, to try in what
 'manner

'manner a woman would behave
 'on such an occasion. But fancy
 'can create merit were there are
 'none, and is more frequently than
 'reason the director of inclination;
 'if this should be the case, gratitude
 'and good manners demand a civil
 'return. I therefore flatter myself;
 'my character will not suffer by
 'this complaisance, since it extends
 'no further than to inform you, I
 'neither am, or ever intend to be
 'under any engagements, but such
 'as shall be approved of by my
 'Grandmother, and whose advice
 'shall

‘shall always direct,’ ”

ELIZABETH CONRADE:

I thought myself extremely politic, in referring him to my Grandmother ; but all that day and the succeeding night, I laboured under inexpressible agitations. The next morning my Grandmother sent a servant, desiring me to come to her apartment ; I was not without some suspicion, that it was on the score of Lovewell. My heart fluttered at the thought, and I hurried to obey the summons ; she received me with a smile, and

Vol. I. C wished

wished me joy; I asked of what? said she, of your having charmed the heart of the most accomplished Gentleman in town, of an estate suitable to your fortune. I could not restrain my blushes, but pretended to be ignorant of her meaning; till she told me Lovewell had been with her, and signified, that he found I was resolved to be directed by her choice, and intreated her interest. I am infinitely obliged to you my dutiful child, said my Grandmother, for paying me this deference, as am no otherwise entitled

titled to it than by sincere good wishes for your happiness. But since you have done me this honor, I have ventured to give Mr. Lovewell my promise, of all the assistance in my power. I have engaged him to dine with us to day, in order to introduce him to you, as a Lover; who in my judgment, merits your best encouragements. She then told me, she had been intimately acquainted with the father of Lovewell; knew the estate which devolved to the young Gentleman at his decease, and that there

there was not the least objection to be made to him, provided his person was to my satisfaction; and added she, I look on you to be too good a judge of what is agreeable; to be blind to the many perfections he has received from nature, as well as education; and think if you had formed in your imagination a man, such as would render you the most blest and envied of your sex, you could not have exceeded what is really to be found in the accomplished Lovewell. I need not say how delighted I was
to

to hear this character of him, from the mouth of my Grandmother; but I dissembled it as well as I was able, and feigned some reluctance at consenting to the interview she proposed. At last however was prevailed on, to yield to what I more passionately desired, than any thing this world could give.

At the appointed time I came down, and neglected nothing that I thought might confirm the favorable opinion Lovewell had entertained of me. I found him there before me, my Grandmother presented

sented him, and he accosted me with the usual forms on such occasions ; but I had enough to do to receive his salutation, as that of a person who was more indebted to the recommendation of my Grandmother, than to my own inclination. My Grandmother prepared a very elegant entertainment after dinner, after which she proposed going to the drawing room, and there being just a set for whist, we went to cards ; Lovewell was my partner, which gave him an opportunity of saying many things to me, equally gallant

gallant as tender : it growing late
he took his leave, but not till he
had requested permission of my
Grandmother to renew his visit,
which she most readily agreed to,
and made me the most passionate
declaration of his love ; had my
permission to visit me the next day,
and to renew his profession ; he
gave all the tokens imaginable of
thinking himself happy in the
progress he had made, and I was
no less so in my own mind, to find
that this second sight of me had not
lessened the passion, the first had
more inspired

inspired him with. As soon as he
 was gone, my Grandmother said,
 tell me Elizabeth my dear, what
 do you think of Mr. Lovewell our
 new visiter? dont you think he
 seemed to be very good natured?
 immensely so indeed mama, I think
 he has a great deal to say on every
 subject; and what is more, I pro-
 test he is very handsome; why
 child, he is universally admired as
 a man of sense; and to confess the
 truth, not much less as a man of
 pleasure; his character appeared
 to rise in proportion, not only
 from

from the silence of the man, but the blushes of the ladies; but I have told you before, and repeat it, I do not mean to lay you under any disagreeable restraints, for there is a want of liberality in rendering those we love, either miserable, or uneasy. On this account, I will not tire you with documents, for I am sensible there is nothing received with less pleasure by young ladies than advice. But, as I was in the same predicament as you, I will tell you.

At the age of nineteen I married

Vol. I. D the

the son of a worthy Gentleman, and
 between his family and mine, the
 most friendly intimacy had been
 for many years; his person was
 tall of stature, his shape finely
 proportioned, and his countenance
 majestic; he possessed all the
 amiable and social virtues, blended
 with an enchanting vivacity and
 amiability of disposition; genuine
 and disinterested love was the
 foundation of my union, and after
 my marriage my delight was placed
 in my husband's friendship, I
 esteemed his understanding, made
 his

his will a law, and spent the few years in giving him every moment fresh instances; of what in my opinion, only deserves the name of love. You are tolerably acquainted with the French and Italian Languages, and I have instructed you in all moral and religious duties; and need not doubt, but you have very often heard, that good housewifery is a most commendable quality. I will now instruct you to manage my domestic affairs; and when you have made that progress I wish you

to

to make, then you shall have my free consent to marry Mr. Lovewell, and I will give you a handsome fortune. I thanked my Grandmother with a heart overflowing with gratitude, for I had a most kind indulgent Grandmother, by whom I was scarce ever controlled; for this reason, I seldom desired or ever did any thing that was wrong; we were true friends, and asked each other advice in every thing we did; she loved me, and took pleasure in instructing me, was proud of me, and gave
me

me more money than I had occasion for. I had now no need of a book before I went to bed, reading had no charms for me, an agreeable confusion never felt before, filled my whole heart ; Mr. Lovewell's figure was perpetually before me, I recollected every thing he had said to me, and I dwelled on the pleasure he took in gazing at me ; if I only thought on that subject, the night passed ; in this manner I had no sleep, for I was afraid it would effect my constitution ; my toilet which was before neglected,

now became an object of serious attention.

The next morning Mr. Lovewell came to breakfast with us, I blushed as I arose to receive him; he handed me to my chair, and placed himself next to me, we enjoyed a private tete a tete; my Grandmother came in, and found us seated in a conversation; Mr. Lovewell sprang from his seat, and bending his knee to the ground, kissed her hand with transport, and asked her consent to name the time; she replied, two or three years.

years. Dear Madam, I submit myself entirely to your direction to whatever you may think proper for us. She replied, that is spoken like a man of sense, and you may depend of my doing every thing to both your satisfactions; we returned her thanks in the most polite manner.

During the space of two years I shall pass over in silence; we frequently amused ourselves with riding round the neighbouring estates, which present an assemblage in natural beauties, scarcely to be equalled

equalled in any part of the kingdom ; we were passionately fond of such scenes, and used to alight, and send the servants and horses before us ; our rambles were as fancy, or chance directed.

Upon hearing one day of the necessities of an honest but indigent family, about five miles distance from my Grandmother, I was resolved to pay them a visit, nor did I acquaint Mr. Lovewell of it, till I was ready to set out, when I desired him to accompany me, which he instantly consented ; we

found

found the unhappy mansion, situated at the foot of a hill, surrounded with several inclosures of orchards, pasture grounds, and corn fields. At the entrance leading to the door was a short walk between two hedges, which inclosed a small kitchen garden, with some stacks of hay, and near the main building some stables and barns, but every thing was in profound silence, for no human object was near, and nothing to be heard but the warbling songs of the airy cherubims, who fluttered among the hedges, or

fat making their responses from the distant thorny breakers. The solitary stillness of the place, added to the reflection of the business in which we were employed, contributed to render us thoughtful ; and we could not help giving some moments to the consideration of the various unavoidable miseries which attend human nature ; miseries, which neither virtue nor prudence can always guard against. With a mind thus dipped in pity, we could not help hesitating a little when we came to the door ; but

but at last rapping softly, we entered the room, where sorrow and despair was painted in the strongest colours; and in every face such an undissembled sadness, which struck me to the very soul; for notwithstanding, the relief we intended to give them, we could not forbear sharing in the general grief; and indeed, it was with some pain, that we assumed an air of ease and cheerfulness; in order to comfort a pretty boy, who stood with his eyes fixed on his mother, and pulling her by the apron, cried at
seeing

seeing her weep ; two young ones which were yet too young to take any notice, were playing about the room ; but wherever I turned my eyes every thing was in disorder, nor was it possible to cross the room, or take a chair, for the confined heap of little was every way strewed about. Alas poor woman ! she was in too deep affliction to attend to the management of her family, for her mind was too much discomposed to attend to trifles ; for a violent distress almost always renders us inactive, it sinks
grievous and

and depresses the spirits, when no visible assistance is in view, makes the unhappy incapable of thinking or using their natural abilities, in order to extricate themselves from their difficulties; these observations I have experienced from my Grandmother, and have always found them agreeable to truth. At one of the windows sat a young woman, with despair in her eyes; and a look that discovered her, as if she was grown stupid with grief; before her laid a book of devotion, on which her regards were fixed;

but

but fixed in such a steady manner, as shewed that she was incapable of reading, she pored on the same place, and neither her eyes nor her head moved, to take in the compass of a line. As soon as we entered the room, the good woman arose from her chair, and seemed much surpris'd at the sight of strangers of our appearance, and asked our business; Mr. Lovewell taking the little boy into his arms, wiped away his tears, and kissing his pretty rosy cheeks, told him, he would wipe away his mother's too if he was
able ;

able ; at this he smiled, and empty-
ing some lumber out of a chair,
while his mother made another
ready for me. We both sat down,
and were at a loss how to introduce
the cause of our visit, for we would
willingly have obliged them in a
way as little painful as possible ;
so at first, I seemed exceeding fond
of the little creatures that were
playing around me ; the little
girl came running toward me, and
clasping her arms around my neck,
I stooped to kiss her, said she, will
you be my other mam ? and I will
love

love you as well as my own, you know we much love good people, and I am sure you are one of them, for mam told me so yesterday; I then turning to the mother, desired that she would deem us her sincerest friends, and that we should think it a pleasure to serve her; she thanked us in a manner, that convinced us her hopes were at a low ebb, and too far sunk to be raised by glimmering prospects, and airy visions; however, she called her husband, who with more firmness in his countenance, but

but with eyes drooping with care, came to us from a back room, and related the cause of his misfortune, with that honest frankness and simplicity which always effects the mind, though uttered in the more plain and homely language; he told us, that by the excessive rains which enriched the farmers of the neighbouring hills with several successive years of plenty, he was reduced from a state of affluance, to penury and indigence; that he should be obliged to sell the plentiful crop that covered his lands, to a vast

disadvantage, to satisfy his landlord's demand, and that he had no other prospect, than to loose the fruit of his labours, and to be turned out of all his possessions, and perhaps to glean the fields he himself had sown ; and all this, for the want of a small sum, which his landlord had now a particular occasion for. Willing to shorten his uneasiness, we here interrupted him, to know what sum would remove his present anxiety ; and as soon as he had informed us, we answered him with a smile, that we thought

thought ourselves very happy in having it in our power to give joy to an honest family, and at the same time emptied our purses upon the table; we then felt our hearts overflow with a sympathetic extasy, arising from the transports which we ourselves had occasioned. Thus a little gold that long laid useless in my drawers, and for which I had no use, procured happiness to a whole family, and given me myself a delight more exquisite than ever I experienced on the like occasion, since the advantage they have

have received from it, as they told us, may probably redound to their children's children. What use we possibly make of this hoarded self to procure us equal satisfaction, or what is the pleasure we receive from pride, gratification of luxurious appetite, or indulgence of the highest animal delight, compared to this luxury of the mind, the most natural rapture, which results from the gratifications of humanity. We took our leave with thus pleasing idea, and hastened home; an event of the most terrible

terrible and distressing nature happened. My Grandmother who had enjoyed a perfect state of health in the morning, was seized with a violent fever, the servant reported my Grandmother's illness was not dangerous ; this falsehood was confirmed by the Physicians, who thought they obliged me in so saying ; but profound dejection of spirits informed me but too well, what would be the event. I used to go into my Grandmothers chamber ; fancying, none could attend her with such care and tenderness

as

as myself. One day as I was endeavouring to compose her to rest, I observed she seemed in greater pain than usual; her dangerous situation, and the fear of the consequences made me tremble, and had such an effect on my spirits, that I burst into tears with the grief. My Grandmother remained some time silent, and then extending her arms towards me, she spoke thus: do not afflict yourself my child, we must all submit; my life is in the hands of God, and I ought to thank him for so long giving me
time

time for repentance, I am acquainted by my Physicians I cannot live a week longer, at this time my spirits fail me, and it is the ardent love I have for you that carries me beyond my strength, and enables me to tell you, the most painful thing in the prospect of death is, that I must part with you; but let it be a comfort to you, I have no guilt hangs upon me, no unrepented folly that retards me, I am not capable under my present weakness, of bearing the strong agonies of mind I fall into,
when

when I think to myself the grief you must be in hearing of my departure ; I will not dwell upon this, because, your kind and generous heart will be but the more afflicted : as she spoke those words, she wiping away some tears : Oh ! my Grandmother cried I, throwing myself on my knees, by her bed side, pressing her hand with both mine, shedding a flood of tears, in pity and mercy to me, forbear expressions that pierces my soul ; would you then abandon me ? what should I do ? whither should

should I go without you ? my emotion almost choaked me, I looked down and remained silent, my Grandmother embraced me tenderly ; my dear child, said she, I am loſt to part, I have only to regret my dear Elizabeth, that I leave you at an age, when the paſſions are moſt rebellious ; you have a good father and mother, write to them this afternoon, and acquaint them of my illneſs, and deſire of your father, at the receipt of yours, to come inſtantly to you as I am dangerously ill, and

not to delay ; and if I should die
before he arrives, go to town with
your father ; and after my funeral
remain with your Parents for a
year, then you will be at the age
I intended to marry you to Love-
well. I have made my will, and
bequeathed you sixty thousand
Pounds, to be paid on the day of
marriage, or when you come to
age ; we were here interrupted by
one of my Grandmother's intimate
friends, so I left the room and
went down stairs ; before I had
scarcely concluded my Letter, to
send

send to London, I was disturbed by a fervant, who came into my room and acquainted me, that my Grandmother was taken very bad; I instantly went up stairs, but she breathed her last, before I came into the room, in the arms of her friend. I thought the ground would immediately open and swallow me alive, I cried for protection to the Almighty, as none but he alone could give it me; all before me now was a dreary, and dark scenes; I was put to bed, and my friends intreated me to take
some

some weak whey, in order to prevent any ill consequences. My father did not arrive till two days after her decease, and lamented her death, with all the affection, as a dutiful son in law ; but when the will was opened, he found she had bequeathed nothing to him; only fifteen thousand Pounds to my mother, and sixty thousand Pounds to me ; he was so vexed at this, that the country became quite irksome to him, and he would not stay a day longer ; he desired me to accompany him to town, and I obeyed

obeyed the summons, and we set out for London the next day ; I arose with the sun, passing my time between that and the breakfast hour, in vain attempts to calm my troubled spirits, with the loss of parting with so tender a Grandmother, under whose protection I passed away many a happy day, and who never controlled me in my desires, or even looked at her Elizabeth with a frown, was by far the cruellest shock that I had experienced ; twenty times I washed away the tears that inflamed my eyes,

eyes, and as often disfiguring them again ; at length the servant came up to call me, and with trembling steps I reached the parlour, and found Mr. Lovewell there before me.

I will not attempt to describe to my Kind Readers the scene of our separation, words are too weak to express ; and the tears which we both shed, were proofs of our mutual affection. The servants regarded me, and at my departure they gathered around me to take a farewell, and I could easily perceive

perceive from their looks, that they were grieved at my departure; and as I entered the carriage, I heard them whisper to my servant, to let them often hear of their good young Lady. Whilst we drove along the first few miles from Devon, there was scarce a tree or bush, that did not receive the tribute of a parting tear, for they called back the remembrance of scenes I could scarcely recollect, but with regret. When we arrived in town, I found far more company of different friends and relations
of

of my parents, who came to congratulate me on my arrival ; but I performed my task but awkwardly, for I was little disposed to repay the unmeaning compliments of fashionable politeness. I went early to bed, being fatigued of my journey ; but the instant that my eyes were opened, every thing brought Lovewell to my memory, I was not delighted in exchanging my charming apartment in the country, decorated with fine flowers, and the prospect of a spacious garden, for a room in a noisy street
in

in London; I seated myself at the window to observe the carriages; for some little time this amused me extremely well; but when the novelty wore off, I soon became tired. A fortnight after my arrival Mr. Lovewell was under the necessity of coming to town; the door opened, and Mr. Lovewell was ushered into the drawing room, as I was playing and singing a simple air; I turned my head and was instantly clasped in the arms of my dear Lovewell; our mutual joy at meeting, may by some be

Vol. I. H conceived,

conceived, but words cannot express it ; every look, every motion in my heart so tuned ; he said a thousand sweet and affectionate things ; oh ! what enviable moment of heartfelt bliss ; moments, which are only given to those bosoms who can feel. Mr. Lovewell arose to go ; I said, will you not stay a little longer, you may as well dine here ; I cannot now, replied Mr. Lovewell ; I believe it is late, then looking at his watch, bless me its past three ! said he, I must go home to dress, I am engaged to dine with

with Lady Allsee to day, well then dine with me to-morrow, I shall be at home all day, as the rest of the family dine out ; kind and generous Lady, most agreeable engagement I will come, I bowed but made no reply ; he took his leave. I was quite delighted with the idea, for Lady Allsee had made a party for Country Dancing at her house, that very evening ; I went, neglected nothing of my ornaments, and was no sooner in the room than he came in, and after having made his compliments to her Ladyship, and

and some others whom he knew, then approached, and saluting me with an air far different than he had accosted the others; entreating of me to be his Partner, which I most readily agreed to. Lady Allsee and Lovewell, proposed going with a party to Ranelagh the next day, and it was in compliance to their request that I should accompany them. The pleasure I enjoyed was in Lovewell's company, which contributed more to my amusement, than the sight of the fine dressed throng which

which crowded round the gay circle ; the heat of the room, and the fatigue of walking about, that I infensibly took hold of Love, well's arm, and was leaning on it, when my father and Lord Norman entered the room ; I could not help being alarmed, by the attention with which he distinguished me, from the first moment I came to London. I thought too, that I perceived my father watching every movement to discover what impression my appearance made to his Lordship ; this inspired me
with

with so strong a feeling, of mingled fear and aversion, that I could scarcely constrain myself to behave to him with common civility, for in my father's looks there was something that denoted hurt to me. I withdrew my arm from Lovewell, who perceived I was displeased at something, and repeatedly entreated to know what was the matter with me ; and this he did, with so much earnestness and apparent sincerity, that I was angry with myself for having been so silly. The next morning he
called

called upon me, and the moment he entered the room, I was resolved to make up for the pain I had given him the preceding night; I stretched out my hand to him, and enquired after his health, before he had time to pay me the compliments of the day. After the usual questions about dress and company was over, Lovewell was silent for a moment; then taking my hand, and gently pressing it with his, my dear Elizabeth, said he, Heaven is witness how fondly I doat on you, nay, sooner would I suffer death
then

then offend you, or make any request which you could not with propriety grant; but let me entreat you, in the name of every thing you hold dear, to appoint the day which will put an end to my anxiety; for believe me, my dear, you are the sole objects of my thoughts, and never shall I enjoy real happiness until such time that I can name you mine; pardon my abruptness, my dear Elizabeth, for I flatter myself that I have fortitude enough to resist the common misfortunes of mortality, but was any
mischance

mischance to happen to prevent your becoming mine, my heart foretells me, that I never shall have one minutes happiness in this world, and the Almighty he alone knows the consequence which may occur.

I thought Lovewell looked so handsome, with such animation sparkling in his eyes; the full blown roses on his cheeks, and his noble air; ah! how could they fail to make an impression on my young heart, naturally tender: for there was so much manly firmness

in his manner of addressing me, that it was impossible for me to resist any longer. I fondly leaned my hand on his shoulder, and entreating him not to misconstrue my frankness, I gave him full power to obtain my parents consent for naming the time; which was to make me his for ever. Kind Generous Girl, exclaimed he, upon my knees, let me pour out the thanks of a heart, overflowing with gratitude and love. Rise, my Dear Lovewell, said I, be assured that I never would consent

to our union, if I did not see every prospect, of our both enjoying happiness.

Lovewell went the next day to address my father on that head, but he forbid him his house; which obliged him to return without accomplishing his business. I did not hear of him for two or three days, which occasioned my being in a deplorable state; nor was I long permitted to remain in ignorance; for I knew not that I was the unhappy subject of my parents thoughts.

One

One morning my father sent for me, to come to him in the Parlour ; he received me very kind, and after some little discourse with me, he said, what do you think of Lord Norman ? is not he a very agreeable man ? he has a clear estate of ten thousand pounds a year ; he honour's me with his visits, and has cast a favourable eye on you ; and wishes himself to be my son in law, so I desire you will receive his Lordship addresses ; as he is the man, I design for your husband. I cannot describe how

great

great my confusion was; surprise,
deprived me of utterance, and
with an astonishment I became
senseless; for I always used to pay
the strictest obedience to all my
father's commands; and my spirit
could not bear the conflict. I
fainted, and fell at his feet; and
on reviving, I found myself suppor-
ted by my maid with drops, on
one side; and my father on the
other. As soon as he saw me re-
covered, he ordered the servant to
quit the room, and not giving me
time to speak, he said to me, I
understand

understand the cause of this confusion, it is because you dislike my choice Miss. But beware, for I will not have my project broken by a girl ; I have this time yielded to ask it of you, but the next I will command, and it shall be obeyed. I threw myself from the chair on my knees, but he cast on me a look of anger ; my mother came in the room, for he had already acquainted her of it ; she said to me, I find that your father wants to marry you to Lord Norman, consider well Miss, you then will be a happy girl,

girl, for you will have splendour, equipage, title, and all the blessings of life. Oh! pardon me, I esteem and reverence you; nor fear I anything more than your displeasure, which hope I shall never experience nor ever deserve; but I will venture to inform you, that both my heart and promise is engaged to another; and hope that you will favour my choice with your approbation. Now the secret is out, exclaimed my father! with far more composure than I expected; what do you presume to hope that

I

I will consent to your marriage with a young fellow, who has nothing to recommend him but a tolerable person, and an intolerable affluence: and your great fortune which you have, to be equally divided with a man whom I abhor and despise. It is very probable replied I, you may dislike him, for merit is often an object of aversion; but his character is in no persons power to despise. We will not dispute that point at present said my father, I tell you once more I abhor him: nor will I ever
I consent

consent to your marriage with him. What is he endowed with ? he is most assuredly handsome, which Heaven knows may easily decay. His resemblance to one who loves him, replied I, is the strongest recommendation he can well possess ; pardon my sincerity Sir, for I am no ways inclined to think, that duty or gratitude is not owing to a parent, to demand the sacrifice of my happiness and honour ; both of which, I must wholly give up, could I prevail on myself, from mean and shamefully mercenary motives ;

motives ; and to bestow my hand on a man, who is unexpressibly disagreeable to me ; for I should greatly injure both, if I was to refuse one who inherits every good and amiable quality, for no other reason, than because he is not possessed of that which I have enough. Dont be too sure, cried my father, that you have such mighty abundance ; for my power extends further than you imagine, for I can with pleasure deprive you of every pretence to fortune, or consequence ; and a word from
me,

me, would render you friendless and a beggar. I was silent from surprise, and will you continued he, raising his voice to an authoritative pitch marry Lord Norman, or resolve to encounter the misfortunes, your folly and perverseness draw upon you. Replied I, in a steady voice, I will tell you Sir; I consider Lovewell as the man of my mind, the man of my voluntary choice, selected from among the rest of mankind, by the joint consent of my judgment and inclination; how then could I be prevailed

prevailed on to marry any other man, I might justly be deemed guilty of the highest ingratitude and treachery, to be bribed from the consideration of wealth and grandeur, for to become the wife of one man, while my heart is fixed on another ; and to marry a man, in whose conversation I could have no enjoyment, only to sit at the upper end of one man's table, a very common prudential motive to marriage ; and at the same time wishing another in his place. What prudence, what goodness ? it

is a sort of a policy ; I will not marry Lord Norman, sooner will I use your own words, be friendless and a beggar. It is well, replied my mother, henceforth then be both ; for know that you are not the daughter of Sir Henry Conrade, and that you are no child of mine. On saying this, she took hold of my father, and went out of the room ; leaving me in a situation scarce to be conceived.

I retired early to my room with a heart full of sorrow and anguish, recollecting occurrences
of

of past days, and giving a kind of involuntary sigh, I drew a comparison betwixt Lord Norman, and Mr. Lovewell ; alas ! too much in favour of the latter. The fancy was so strongly impressed in my mind, that whilst I was asleep my dear beloved Lovewell's image was present in my dream ; I dropped a silent tear, and a sigh again stole from my bosom.

The next morning I was not a little surprised and astonished, a servant came to acquaint me that breakfast waited ; I started at the sound,

found, unwilling to discover myself before a domestic. I will come answered I, but contrive to send Mrs. Polly to me; (this was the name of my intriguing girl.) The dear girl tipped lightly up the stairs; oh! dear Polly, said I, it is only from your prudence and experienced friendship, I have to hope of relief; in an exigence the most cruel, that ever happend to any girl in the world; I am since yesterday that you saw me, involved in a sea of preplexities, whichever way I steer, threatening confusion

confussion to my mind and my
happinefs. Assist me with your
counsel, I beseech you ; but I
know the entreaty will be needless,
when you are acquainted with the
cause, which reduces me to want
it ; take it then as briefly as the
circumcumstance will admit. You
are not ignorant, how for two
whole years, I have been address'd
of Lovewell, because my Grand-
mother discovered nothing in his
character, behaviour, or conversa-
tion, to excite any aversion, and to
give me any just cause of refusing
him.

him. Now, my father wants me
 to marry Lord Norman, a man I
 hate; replied Polly, how lightly do
 you speak of an event, the most
 momentous of your life; your
 marriage, and that to a man you
 hate. You say, I speak lightly,
 Oh! my friend, my counsellor,
 and my adviser, I will tell you
 every thing; and hope you will
 tell me how every thing can be
 conducted. I neither rest by day,
 nor sleep by night; for thinking of
 him the dear object of my wishes.
 I cannot persuade you, my dear
 Vol. I. L Mills,

Now my father wants me
 Mils, to give yourself to a man
 I am a man I want to marry
 you do not love : much less, as
 you are possessed with so extreme
 a passion ; and for one, whose
 merit by all account I have heard
 much of, and who seems to justify
 all the tenderness you have for
 him ; I cannot too much applaud
 the delicacy of your sentiments,
 and that nice sense of honor which
 makes you tremble at the danger ;
 but I doubt there is little chance of
 being tolerably happy in the
 married state, if it is entered upon
 with indifference ; only, if there

is

is a preposition against the party I
think unhappiness will certainly
ensue; but if a partiality for another
is joined to this, ah! what tongue
can express what the heart then
feels; oh! my Polly, may you
for ever remain insensible to the
agonies which at this moment rend
the heart of me. Oh! Lovewell,
why was you formed for the de-
struction of my peace? or why has
nature given you accomplishments
which none that know them can
resist? ah! gentle Lovewell, did
you but know the torments which
the

the unhappy Elizabeth suffers, surely you would pity me. Indeed unhappy Lord Norman may think himself in being rejected by you, he would find himself much more so in being accepted in the present situation of your heart, for he can never receive pleasure from a union with one, whose heart is devoted to another; and indeed it is very hard, that Mr. Lovewell should have been encouraged to pay his addresses to you during your Grandmother's life time, and now to have the doors shut at his

face

face by your parents; come down
to breakfast, and if you can get to
speak to Lord Norman alone, and
acquaint him with the cause you
may get rid of him; if not, write
a letter to him. Replied I, will
agree to fix my resolution of ful-
filling my engagements with Love-
well at all hazards; that is right,
and I will try some stratagem to get
you out of this house, you are as
pale as ashes: Oh! how has a few
hours grief altered you. But I
must not stay, for I must go down;
I was hardly able to creep
down

down the stairs, so I supported myself by the bannisters, and all the way I trembled to so great a degree through excess of grief and weakness, that I had like to have fallen.

When I made a courtesy at entering the room, no one spake to me, but Lord Norman, he paid me the compliment of the day; I bowed my head, but could not raise a word; I cast my eyes round the table, to examine the different countenances of the company; in my father, there was a steady contraction

contraction in his countenance,
and seemed uneasy; and in me
there was the strongest marks of
grief, chastised by fear. I had but
one flight look at Lord Norman,
he seemed dilated, I felt a glow
of comfort arise in my breast on
the occasion; I thought could I
address him by himself, I might
prevail on him that he may have
generosity, at least I will make the
effort.

When breakfast was over, I
found the company were preparing
to quit the room; I arose, I say

Miss,

Miss, said my father, Lord Norman
is desirous of having some conver-
sation with you; I retook my seat,
my sister next walked out, and
then my father. Now thought I,
an opportunity presents itself, I
will if possible assume courage to
speak to his Lordship, and Heaven
prosper me. He began a long
speech, of unmeaning professions,
and unwelcome compliments on
my charms; I was no less an angel,
and a goddess, but he was extreme-
ly wanting, for the hero in the
romance thought a kiss of his
mistress's

mistress's hand, a sufficient recompense for seven years service; this doubtless imagined he should carry my whole person in seven days. I cut him short by saying, I wished not to hear such encomium on my person, that I should never cease to think myself unfortunate in creating a passion in his Lordship's breast, since I could make no return wherein the heart had any concern, as that had been naturally fixed, before I had the least notion of your intentions in my favour; I was proceeding when my father

10 Vol. I. M entered

entered the room with an angry countenance; preverse Girl said he, will you for ever abuse my indulgence; do not my dear friend attend to her flimsy and romantic scruples, her head is absolutely turned by cursed nonsense for she has read in novels of those fine sentimental's. I made no reply but hastened to my own room, and wrote a letter to Lord Norman, as Polly directed me.

MY LORD.

It is a very ill return which I make to the respect you have

I love for

‘ for me; when I acknowledge to
‘ you, I am incapable of loving
‘ you; were my heart entirely
‘ free from all attachment to
‘ another, I never could be brought
‘ to love you; I am sincere in all
‘ my words and action, which was
‘ the first precept of my early
‘ youth; consider the misery of
‘ bestowing yourself to one, who
‘ can have no prospect of happi-
‘ ness, but from your death. This
‘ is a confession made, perhaps with
‘ an offensive sincerity; but that
‘ conduct is much to be preferred
by

'by a secret dislike, which could
 'not but pass all the sweets of life,
 'by imposing on you a companion
 'that doats and languishes for
 'another. I will not go so far as
 'to say my passion for the Gentle-
 'man, whose wife I am by promise,
 'would lead me to any thing
 'criminal against my honour. I
 'know, it is dreadful enough, to a
 'man of sense to expect nothing
 'but forced civilities, in return for
 'the tenderest endearments and
 'cold esteem for undeserved love ;
 'if you will on this occasion, let
 reason

reason take places of passions, I
doubt not, but fate has in store
for you, some worthier object of
your affection. In recompense
of your goodness to the only
woman that could be insensible of
your merit, I am, &c.

ELIZABETH CONRAD.

Polly came into my room with
joyful countenance; Oh! my Dear
Madam, said she, I have just now
seen Mr. Lovewell at Lady Allfree,
and he begged me to tell you, that
he expects a letter from you; what
should I write to him my Polly, for

Heaven

Heaven sake arm yourself against all persuasions, to a match that has nothing to recommend it, but in point of fortune ; and you know your promise that you would fulfil your engagements with Mr. Lovewell at all hazards ; I replied, I will follow my own inclination, for how joyfully shall I partake all his pleasures, or share and monopolize all his griefs ; nothing but he himself is my choice I am determined ; no outward circumstances, no situations, no opinions besides my own, will have any influence
on

on my mind ; but Dear Polly, it would be endless to exhibit, the various pictures of delight which my imagination has formed, on the thought of being Lovewell's wife.

Polly saw Lovewell frequently in private, and also contrived interviews between him and me ; our garden opened into the green park, and Polly appointed a day for the celebration of our marriage, and it was thought proper by us both, that she should be present at it. All things were conducted with secrecy, my father not having
the

the, that suspicion, that such an
 intrigue was carrying on between
 me and Lovewell, the man my
 father so much hated; till two
 days previous to that morning
 when I was to steal out, and give
 myself away for ever; the fatal
 discovery was made, by my unin-
 fortunately dropping a letter the
 day before, and Polly appointed a day
 for the first volume of
 and it was thought proper by us
 both, that she should be present at
 it. All things were conducted
 with secrecy, my father not having
 the